in the case. Investigation also shows that the arms and ammunition were procured for waging war against the State.

(e) Government is alive to the situation and have taken all steps in this regard which include gearing up of intelligence machinery stricter enforcement of existing regulations by the concerned Departments/ Organisations and a closer coordination between the concerned Central and State agencies.

Indian Forest Act, 1927

*272. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to amend Indian Forest Act, 1927; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving details is attached.

STATEMENT

Salient features of the proposed amendments to the Indian Forest Act, 1927

1. The proposed amendment seeks to update and consolidate various forest and related Acts and the amendments made by the States to the Indian Forest Act, (IFA) 1927.

2. Suitable new provisions have been proposed in the draft to give effect to the pronouncements made in the National Forest Policy, 1988.

3. A new orientation has been given in the proposed legislation to make it broad based legal instrument for ensuring ecological conservation. This is evident from the preamable of the draft and some of the chapters contained therein. Measures suggested for proper management of shifting cultivation areas would further corroborate the same. Similarly suitable provisions have been proposal for protection of trees in urban areas and privately owned rural areas.

4. Many more definitions relating to forestry have been added. These are 'Agro-forest', 'Biomass', 'Claimant', 'Degraded Forest', 'Divisional Forest Officer', 'Forest', 'Land', 'Licence', 'Licensee', 'Natural ecosystem', 'Person', 'Plantation', 'Red-sanders', 'Revenue Officer', 'Sandalwood', 'Sawing', 'Saw mill', 'Saw pit', 'Shifting cultivation', 'Transporter', 'Usufructs', 'Vehicle', 'Village Forest Committee' and 'Working plan'. These words are not defined in the present Act.

5. The village communities have been assigned greater duties and responsibilities in the management of forests adjoining habitations. It is proposed that village forests may be constituted in such a way that one village is accountable for one such forest. The village level institution to protect and manage such forests and to appropriate the forest produce therefrom.

6. A number of prevailing restrictions specially on felling and transport of timber from private land have been proposed to be relaxed to encourage social forestry and farm forestry programmes. A mechanism has been provided under which tree growers could register themselves with the Divisional Forest Officer. The State Forest Department will ensure that such tree growers get the requisite permission for felling and transport of tree and other forest produce within a stipulated period. An arrangement has been suggested under which village institutions incharge of village forests and other community lands could assign earmarked areas to individuals for tree planting and fodder cultivation. This is expected to encourage peoples participation in such activities. Private land holdings are proposed to be exempted from the purview of the land ceiling laws to the extent these bear tree plantation (other than horticultural or commercial cash crops).

7. Suitable provisions have been sought to be made to ensure that finances are mobilised for afforestation and related activities. The State Governments can levy a cess on sale of forest produce to create a separate fund exclusively for forest protection and development. The village communities have also been empowered to levy a similar cess for mobilising resources for this purpose. A minimum support price has been proposed for purchase of forest produce from private growers with a view to give them encouragement.

8. A number of regulatory measures have been provided for effective control on forest based industries. Requisite provisions have been made to ensure that industries using forest produce as a raw-material are not set up without ascertaining adequate availability of such raw-material. The Government has been empowered to review leases/agreements for supply of forest produce to industries and to effect appropriate changes in such deeds. State Governments have also been empowered to take over trade and disposal of notified forest produce.

9. Special provisions have been sought to be made for controlling saw milling, processing of certain types of forest produce, possession trade and processing of sandal wood and red-sanders, etc.

10. Specific provisions have been proposed stipulating that the Government forests shall be managed only in accordance with approved management plans. Government of India has been given certain powers to oversee the enforcement of the proposed Act. Government of India has also been given powers to issue certain directions to the States for example asking them to notify certain forest areas as reserved forests, enforcement of certain types of land use practices in areas under shifting cultivation, preparation and revision of working plans.

11. Suitable provisions have been proposed stipulating that denotification of a reserved forest is compensated by notifying an equal area as reserved forest elsewhere in the State. status of protected forests is reviewed every 10 years and suitable areas out of these to be notified as reserved forests.

12. Encroachments on forest lands not to be regularised by executive orders without a motion to that effect being adopted by the Parliament; etc.

13. Penal provisions of the existing Act are being made more stringent. Some of the offences, particularly those involving forest produce valued at more than Rs. 10,000/- would lead to higher punishment. Some of the offences have been made non-bailable and in some cases a minimum mandatory imprisonment under section 78 has been provided. Special provision has been provided for preventing corrupt practices by forest and other officials charged with responsibilities of forest production.

14. Procedures under the Act have been comprehensively amended. Forest officials are empowered to confiscate tools, equipments, machinery, plants, vehicles, etc. involved in forest offences. Inter-departmental cooperation has been made mandatory for prevention and detection of forest offences.

15. The final draft of the proposed amendment is under consideration.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

*273. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has land assets of 80,000 hectares in the country at present and has to depend upon Government for its annual expenditure of Rs. 800 crore;

(b) whether a parallel organization viz. C S I R generates 40 percent of its budget from its own resources;

(c) whether the Government are also contamplating to bring ICAR gradually on the same pattern;

(d) whether any action plan has been developed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has land assets of about 19500 hectares at present. ICAR has to depend upon Government for its annual expenditure which in 1996-97 is estimated at Rs. 529.30 crores both Plan and Non-Plan put together.

(b) No Sir. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) however indicated that about 26% of their total budget is generated from their own resources.

(c) ICAR realises the immediate importance of self support to the extent possible.

(d) and (e) The ICAR had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.S. Johl to suggest ways and means of mobilisation of resources and improvement of internal resource generation capability. The Committee has since submitted its report and action is initiated. The recommendations in respect of contract service, consultancy, training and contract research are under active consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Production of Pyrazinamide

*274. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of Pyrazinamide in the country during the last three years;

(b) the total annual demand thereof;

(c) the manner in which its shortfall is made good;

(d) the per unit cost of production of Pyrazinamide and its market price;

(e) whether the selling price of this drug is controlled; and

(f) the steps being taken to boost the production of this drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Pyrazinamide is produced in the Small Scale Sector as well as in the Organised Sector. Monitoring is done of the production in the Organised Sector only. As per the available information, the production during the